

Kendall County Children’s Advocacy Center Board Meeting

Kendall County Courthouse – State’s Attorney’s Conference Room

November 20, 2024

11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order – Eric Weis called the meeting to order
- II. Roll call – Present: Brenda Karales, RaeAnn VanGundy, Ron Mikos, Jim Jensen, Jason Bastin, Erica Lopez, Norm Allison, Eric Weis, Dwight Baird, Kristin Temple, Kayla Zidrich, Emma Wallis.
- III. Approval of Agenda – Jason Bastin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Jensen, passed unanimously.
- IV. Approval of Minutes – Jason Bastin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Jensen, passed unanimously.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Year in review
 - i. Eric announced that our CAC is officially accredited with the National Children’s Alliance. He thanked Brenda and Emma for their work on this accomplishment. Brenda thanked the Board for their help and quick responses when it was needed.
 - ii. Brenda reported on the case statistics so far for 2024 and reported we are using the Collaborate system now for data recording.
 1. KCSO – 20, YPD – 25, OPD – 21, PPD – 11, MPD – 6, JPD – 10, Plainfield – 2, DCFS only – 4
 - a. Jason Bastin inquired about the DCFS only cases and Emma explained that we receive intakes from DCFS that do not need an interview or further investigation. These intakes help us meet our standard through the NCA.
 - iii. Brenda reported that our Forensic Interviewers, including Jordan Lombardi and Gina Galanis, have all been keeping up their trainings. Brenda stated that our MDT wide training with Dr. Rangala went well, but at this time we do not have anything similar scheduled for the upcoming year. Brenda asked if anyone has suggestions for a training to let her know.
 - iv. Brenda reported that MDT members have been great at attending our monthly case review meetings. She advised that we will be moving primarily to zoom for the format of the meetings as she has found it to be easier to get more participants. She stated we may have a few in person case reviews through the year for special occasions.
 - v. Brenda reported that the CAC has applied for a grant to hire a new Victim Advocate. We are still waiting to hear back if we have won the grant and will hopefully know by January. Brenda stated that if we receive the grant, we will move Emma to more administrative tasks and less advocacy tasks.
 - b. Eric discussed the protocol that has been recently approved. Brenda explained the changes that were made in order to meet accreditation standards.

- c. Eric asked if anyone had modifications they wanted made to the protocol. No suggestions were made.
 - d. Brenda reviewed the Strategic Plan and advised that short-term plans 1 and 2 have been completed. For plan 3, we were able to purchase technology to collect the surveys after we did not receive a grant for that purpose. She reported that plan 4 is still pending as we are still waiting to hear if we have received that grant. For mid/long-term plans, we are trying to do more community outreach for plan 3. Brenda stated she has worked on the Facebook page for the CAC and has asked all departments to share the posts. She stated in January there will be a special post regarding sex-trafficking that she asks all departments to be aware of.
 - i. Jason Bastin asked if there will be more trainings for officers to become Forensic Interviewers. Brenda said that it is a possibility, and she will send out information to the departments. She advised each department must understand that it is a large commitment for the officers that complete the training if they are to remain certified and conduct interviews.
 - e. Brenda discussed the prevention and outreach that was done over the year, specifically National Night Out and Take Back the Night. She stated she plans to continue being part of these events and others in the upcoming year.
 - f. Brenda discussed the possibility of creating a satellite office for the CAC within a police department. She reported that Lombardi had conducted an interview at OPD due to the situation with the CAC client. OPD may have a room that would accommodate the needs of a satellite office for emergencies, after hours interviews, or when a victim or family is very reluctant. Jason Bastin stated they would need recording technology as the current system does not record audio well and Brenda advised they could find something to implement. Jason will talk further with Lombardi to find what room would work best. Brenda will look into a grant for funding of the satellite office to assist with costs.
 - i. Long term the CAC will continue to be located at the Health Department
 - ii. Kristin Temple brought up that Aurora PD does have an interview room for the same purpose if anyone wants to see what they did.
- VI. New business
- a. Approval of 2025 meeting – Dwight Baird motioned to approve, seconded by Norm Allison, passes unanimously.
 - b. Brenda and Eric discussed fundraising and do not believe it is necessary at this time. It may be a project in the future.
 - c. Eric commended the Health Department and Michelle Hawley for testifying as an expert for multiple trials.
- VII. Motion to adjourn - Jason Bastin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jim Jensen, passed unanimously.